

Not only has Dr. Monette been a leader at Turtle Mountain, he has been a national leader as one of the founders of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, AIHEC, and has served several terms as presidents of the consortium. AIHEC has been the heart and soul of the tribal college movement and under Dr. Monette's leadership it began an aggressive telecommunications initiative that is enhancing communities throughout Indian country.

As Dr. Monette prepares to apply his leadership and vision to other educational pursuits, I wish him and his wife, Dr. Loretta DeLong, a Turtle Mountain Community College graduate, the very best. He has left a lasting legacy for his fellow members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and their children. We join them honoring this exceptional man.●

THE MISSOURI MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION 25TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the Missouri Merchants and Manufacturers Association. I am very pleased to recognize this organization for its 25 years of superior service to the Missouri business community.

The Missouri Merchants and Manufacturers Association was formed in 1980. With hard work and untiring commitment, the MMMA has grown into a strong, well respected voice in the legislative process representing over 5,000 small and mid-sized businesses across the State of Missouri. It is actively involved in educating MMMA members and serving as an advocate on State legislative issues impacting businesses.

While Governor of Missouri, I found that the MMMA's active involvement in State legislative issues provided a vital resource. As chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I highly value the insights they have shared on numerous issues of great importance to America's business. MMMA is a vital link in spearheading the causes of small business.

Over the past 25 years the MMMA has been instrumental in repealing the Merchants and Manufacturers Inventory Tax. The association has assisted in the passage of more than 35 bills in addition to winning three lawsuits before the Missouri Supreme Court. Collectively the MMMA's achievements have saved small and medium sized businesses more than \$400 million.

The quality individuals that comprise the MMMA epitomize the kind of dedication, work ethic and ideals necessary to meet the ongoing challenges and demands of the business community. Their leadership has influenced passage of important legislation and provided dependable resources in many court cases to benefit employers. The Missouri Merchants and Manufacturers Association celebrated its 25th anniversary on January 7, 2005. It is my great

pleasure to congratulate the MMMA for this significant accomplishment.●

HONORING RIVERSIDE MAYOR RON LOVERIDGE

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the leadership and service of Ronald O. Loveridge, mayor of the city of Riverside. Mayor Loveridge has been honored as the 2005 Distinguished Citizen of the Inland Empire by the Inland Empire Council of Boy Scouts of America.

As mayor of the city of Riverside, Ron Loveridge lends his time and leadership to many organizations committed to the vitality and progress of his community. Last year, he served the State of California as president of the League of Cities. Among the organizations that have honored him for his impressive record of service are the American Planning Association, the California Preservation Foundation, the United Way, and the Youth Service Center.

In addition to his thoughtful leadership as mayor, Ron Loveridge has given the city of Riverside his personal commitment for 40 years. A professor of political science at the University of California, Riverside, since 1965, Dr. Ron Loveridge has used his knowledge and expertise to enrich students' understanding of and interest in the inner workings of local government. He has provided a model of conscientious citizenship, volunteering his time to advance the endeavors of the Riverside Arts Foundation, the Riverside County Philharmonic, and the Dickens Festival.

In 1998, Mayor Ron Loveridge was meeting with council members and staff in City Hall when a man entered and shot his gun several times. Given the circumstances, it is a miracle that no one was killed. Mayor Loveridge was hit in the back of the neck, the bullet just missing his spinal cord. I met with him just after the shooting and was amazed at his grace and good will following such an event. He has gone on to lead his city in a similar manner, always showing grace and good will even in the toughest of times.

I applaud Ronald Loveridge for his lifetime of public service and am pleased to invite you to join me in congratulating him as he is honored as the Boy Scouts of America Inland Empire Council's 2005 Distinguished Citizen of the Inland Empire.●

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW POST 1881

● Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments today to recognize a very special milestone that will take place in my home State in the coming days. On June 18, 2005, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1881 in Cheyenne, WY will celebrate its 75th anniversary. In 1930, veterans Harry Leon and Earnest Lissner founded VFW Post 1881. With 69 members and 7 hon-

orary members, the first meeting was conducted in a private home in Cheyenne. After a series of moves and 32 years later, VFW Post 1881 established and built its permanent facility at 2816 East 7th Street in 1962.

Since its founding, Post 1881 has grown in membership and has become a lasting positive fixture in the community. The veterans of the Post are a strong pillar of family support for the Active-Duty, Reserve and Guard personnel of F.E. Warren Air Force Base and the State of Wyoming. The members of VFW Post 1881 remain dedicated to our older and ailing veterans with a large contingency of volunteers who visit patients in the VA Medical Center in Cheyenne and Veterans Homes in Buffalo, Wyoming and Scottsbluff, NE. They are strong supporters of the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and through private fundraising efforts have built two outstanding softball fields for the Cheyenne Thunder Girls Softball Association. As an exclusive project of the Post, these dedicated veterans offer new American flags to local businesses and individuals at no cost to replace frayed and damaged flags, while properly disposing of the exchanged flags. The Post's Ladies Auxiliary carries on numerous projects benefiting the environment and the community, and independently raises funds for homeless and hospitalized veterans. So it is a distinct honor to come before the Senate and congratulate the veterans of VFW Post 1881 on their 75th Anniversary. I thank them for their dedicated service to their fellow veterans and community and wish them continued success for many more years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 366. An act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to strengthen and improve programs under that Act.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the second time and referred as indicated:

S. 981. A bill to ensure that a Federal employee who takes leave without pay in order to perform services as a member of the uniformed services or member of the National Guard shall continue to receive pay in an amount which, when taken together with the pay and allowances such individual is receiving for such service, will be no less than the basic pay such individual would then be receiving if no interruption in employment had occurred; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time: